

1999/F 044 (8577*38)

36. The sulfonated aromatic polymer as claimed in claim 35, wherein the molar proportion of the repeating structural unit of the formula I and formula II is 10-50% and the molar proportion of the repeating structural unit of the formula III is 90-50%.
37. The sulfonated polymer as claimed in claim 36, which has an ion exchange capacity of between 1.0 and 2.0 meq (-SO₃H)/g of polymer.
38. The membrane as claimed in claim 25, which comprises as further polymer a polyether sulfone, polysulfone, polybenzimidazole or polyether ketone and the membrane has a thickness of between 20 and 60 μ m.
39. The membrane as claimed in claim 31, wherein said salt forms of the polymer are NH₄, Li, Na or K salts.
40. The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said washing medium is a 5% strength mineral acid in water.
41. A fuel cell which comprises the membrane as claimed in claim 25.
42. The fuel cell as claimed in claim 41, wherein the fuel cell is a direct methanol fuel cell.
43. A high-performance capacitor which comprises the membrane as claimed in claim 25.
44. A dialysis apparatus which comprises the membrane as claimed in claim 25. - -

REMARKS

The applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment be entered prior to fee calculation and examination. Support for newly added claims 19-32 can be found in the original claims 3-16 respectively. The applicants have rewritten these claims in the proper US form and

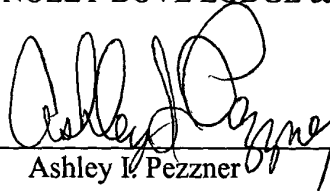
1999/F 044 (8577*38)

have deleted the multiple dependencies and preferable language from these claims. Support for newly added claims 33 and 34 can be found in original claim 4. Support for newly added claims 35-37 can be found in original claim 5, 6 and 8 respectively. Support for newly added claim 38 can be found in original claims 11 and 12. Support for newly added claims 39 and 40 can be found in original claims 15 and 16 respectively. Support for newly added claims 41-44 can be found in the original claims 17 and 18. Claims 1-2 and 19-44 are now in this application. A fee of \$144.00 is enclosed for the extra 8 dependent claims over 20. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, including any fees required for an additional extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136, such an extension is requested and the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-2775.

A prompt and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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